

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

RE: Inquiry into Industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed cattle

We are 6th generation graziers, operating 4 beef producing properties in Northern & Western Qld.

Since the MLA compulsory levy was increased to \$5 per head, farm gate prices have dropped

Since MSA was introduced, farm gate prices have dropped

Since NLIS became compulsory, farm gate prices have dropped

Since PCAS was introduced, farm gate prices have dropped

We are having systems imposed on us with considerable expenses & no increase to farm gate prices

MLA gets more funding when producers are under the most stress with forced sales

MLA is not performing if farm gate prices are dropping – SIMPLE

The beef industry is too top heavy, with so many representative groups

Producers leaving State Farmer Organizations in droves shows that there is no value for money in joining & no real representation of the grass roots producer

All of the above shows that the current system is not working

If these organizations were being paid on performance, they would no longer exist

We need to promote our beef & we need representation but there is something wrong with the current structure

The only producer group working & representing their members well is the NT Cattlemen's Association

Yours faithfully,

Wayne & Sandra Birchmore